

MINUTES
10x10 Blue Ribbon Affordable Housing Meeting
Thursday January 11, 2007, 4:00 p.m.
Fresno City Hall, 4th Floor, Meeting Room 4017

Committee Members Present: Cynthia Sterling, Fresno City Council District 3 (Co-Chair)
Keith Bergthold, City of Fresno (Chair)
Michael Sigala, City of Fresno
Dan Fitzpatrick, Lantana Investment, LLC
Rev. Sharon Stanley, FIRM
Paul Werfelmann
Sara Hedgpeth-Harris, League of Woman Voters
Veda Ramsay, the Ramsay Group

Others Present: Bonnie Rusko, Universal Design Committee, and
Code Enforcement, Subcommittee
John Giannetta, City of Fresno
Dan Fitzpatrick, Jr.

Absent: Lee Brand, Westco
Ned Stacy
Dennis Woods, United Security Bank
Jess Negrete, Central California Legal Services
Robert Wood, Generation Homes

A. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 4:22 by Keith Bergthold.

B. Introductions

Attendees introduced themselves

C. Approval of Minutes

Sara Hedgpeth-Harris made a motion to approve the minutes. Dan Fitzpatrick seconded the motion, minutes approved.

D. New Financing Subcommittee:

Veda Stamps asked that the New Financing Subcommittee report be tabled for the following week. The subcommittee needs time to draft and review the final recommendations. The New Financing Subcommittee Report was tabled and put on the January 18, 2007 agenda.

Veda Stamps said that there are several different components to putting together a Housing Trust Fund Ordinance. For example, the Planning and Development Department would administer the housing trust fund. Then, a local bank would hold the funds. Finally, someone should be hired to make sure that the trust fund is funded and that money continues to flow into the trust fund.

Sharon Stanley asked if Council Member Sterling's office has all the information necessary to earmark the \$500,000 set aside for the housing trust fund. Council Member Sterling indicated that she does.

E. Next Steps for the 10 X 10 Committee

Sharon Stanley asked how much information each subcommittee must bring forth to the committee and do we need to have a comprehensive policy to the Mayor. Keith Berghold stated that the subcommittee will bring recommendations, with details, to the committee. Then, the committee will vote on the subcommittee's recommendations. The final recommendations will be submitted to the Mayor.

Keith Berghold stated at this time, the subcommittees should be testing the feasibility on their recommendations. Feasibility testing should include meeting with relevant city department managers, outside agencies, and industry groups. Some of these meetings may include the interdepartmental groups convened by Jon Ruiz. Keith Berghold continued to state that it is very important to identify a lead agency for implementation. Veda Stamps asked at what point do the subcommittees stop implementing these steps. Dan Fitzpatrick suggested that each committee take an implementation step and see how it would work. Dan Fitzpatrick said, for example, Code Enforcement could use the receivership model on a problem apartment complex and see how it works. Dan Fitzpatrick said that the same concept would apply to streamlining. For instance, find a project and see how quickly it can get through the system using a shepherd to guide it through the process.

Sara Hedgpeth-Harris said she would like to have some assistance on identify the City Departments and other agencies to implement the recommendations of her subcommittee, Urban Reinvestment. Council Member Sterling said that propositions money is allocated through the county, and therefore a partnership between the city and county must be formed to implement the recommendations. Council Member Sterling said that the city has already met with the county regarding issues that both the county and city share. Dan Fitzpatrick said that we should ask a council member on how to get the agenda to one of these city/county meetings. Keith Berghold said that there needs to be clear, recommendations from the subcommittees and approval from the committee before the subcommittee can implement any steps. Sara Hedgpeth-Harris asked if her subcommittee came back with final recommendations, could she present it to the committee. Keith Berghold said that the next week's meeting, the committee will vote for the recommendations of the New Financing Committee and Urban Renewal.

Sharon Stanley stated that Innovative Code Enforcement Committee will be ready to present after February 2. Keith Berthgold said that a calendar would be created and each subcommittee must pick a time when they are going to bring forth their recommendations to the committee.

F. Public Comments and Announcements:

1) City Forming a Non-Profit:

Michael Sigala and the Planning and Development Department, on January 23, 2007 will request that city council approve the formation of a non-profit for housing, community and economic development activities. Creating a non-profit

entity for the city will allow the city to participate in more affordable housing projects. This non-profit would be a “third arm” for the City of Fresno. The Housing and Community Development Commission has already recommended approval for formation of the non-profit. Michael Sigala said there was concern that the city’s non-profit group may be in competition for funding with other non-profits. Michael Sigala stated that the City’s non-profit would not take any funds or projects, because there are enough funds and projects available. Veda Stamps said that there are other cities that have utilized non-profits with success. Dan Fitzpatrick said there may be competition with other non-profits such as the Housing Authority’s non-profit. Michael Sigala said it was necessary to form a non-profit to send a message that there is a need for funding in our area. The 10 X 10 Blue Ribbon Committee was in favor of forming the Non-profit.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.